



DANIEL HARRIGAN, MAYOR

# PROPOSED CITY OF AKRON 1/4% INCOME TAX INCREASE

DESPITE MANY COST-SAVING EFFORTS,  
NEW REVENUE IS NOW NECESSARY TO KEEP ESSENTIAL CITY SERVICES

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## 1981 The History

The last time the City of Akron passed an income tax for city services was **36 years ago in 1981**. A lot has changed since then.

Akron's progress was hurt by a deep national recession & major funding cuts, starting in 2008:

- Due to the recession, the City has lost an estimated **\$80 million** in income tax revenue
- State and federal cuts to Akron now total **\$15 million every year**, according to *Policy Matters Ohio* report 2017

## 2017 The City Has Made Due With Less

- **A 20% reduction in workforce, or 452 employees**
- City staffing is currently critically low – *without new resources, plans will be to continue to reduce staff*

- The City continues to focus on consolidated operations & space and very conservative hiring practices
- Department budgets are limited and Mayor Horrigan continues to task the City departments with **increasing revenues by 1% and decreasing spending by 1% every single year**

# 1/4% INCOME TAX INCREASE

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## A FAIR & RESPONSIBLE PROPOSAL

- Mayor Horrigan is asking **Council to support this imperative issue to sustain and improve public safety and roads**
- The proposed legislation would place the 1/4% income tax increase on the **November 2017 ballot**
- This would **raise Akron's income tax to 2½%**, equal to Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton

# WHERE WILL THE MONEY GO?

THE ¼% INCREASE WILL GENERATE AN ESTIMATED  
\$16 MILLION ANNUALLY

On average, funds will be allocated to:  
**1/3 for Police, 1/3 for Fire and EMS,  
1/3 for Road Repairs and Public Service**



## THE ¼% INCREASE WILL ALLOW THE CITY TO:

- Maintain current police & fire staffing levels
- Increase the budget for road maintenance and repair, 70% residential, 30% primary
- Maintain adherence to the City's safety vehicle & equipment replacement program

### High-Priority Needs Include



Paving 43 more  
miles of road  
each year



Renovating or  
rebuilding  
fire stations  
**(3 in significant  
disrepair)**

Replacing 63  
police cruisers  
in failing  
condition

Sustaining a long term  
body-worn camera  
program for APD



## WHO WILL PAY THE ¼% AND HOW MUCH?

- Employed people who live or work in Akron
- 2/3 of the collected total is **paid by commuters** who live outside of Akron
- **This is not** a tax on retirement income, social security, dividends, government benefits, or property

THE COST IS AN ADDITIONAL

**\$ 1.68/WEEK, BASED ON AKRON'S \$35,000 MEDIAN INCOME**

## WHAT HAPPENS WITHOUT THE ¼% INCREASE?

- Major public **safety and service needs for the City can't be met**
- Road repairs cannot be timely or thorough
- **City streets will continue to deteriorate**, as costs to repair continue to increase